



CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

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April 4, 1996

Mr. John L. Winther, President
Delta Wetlands
3697 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 320
Lafayette, CA 94549

Dear Mr. Winther:

Thank you for your letter of February 7, 1996, with comments on how the Delta Wetlands (DW) Project can best fit into the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. Taking the time to relay your thoughts on this aspect of our Program is truly appreciated.

Staff has reviewed your comments and suggestions and they are part of our public comment record. We are currently in the process of developing criteria for considering which pending or proposed projects should be included in the base condition analysis during Phase II of the Program. Once the criteria is developed, approximately by the end of April 1996, we will test all the projects and see if they meet the developed criteria. The basic DW Project will be included in this process. If the criteria is met, the DW Project will be included in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program base conditions.

Regarding the question of DW and the core actions; the DW Project is an additional separate and unique opportunity to coordinate an in-Delta water storage project with existing facilities and operations. The core actions are those that would be common to all, therefore, DW will not be included as part of the core actions alternatives. The core actions are differentiated from other actions in the alternatives by their level of implementation and the following defining characteristics:

A core action:

- enjoys broad acceptance among stakeholders at core-level implementation
- provide a benefit to the entire Bay-Delta System
- is cost-effective
- meets one or more Program objectives
- provides some progress toward a solution but is not a satisfactory solution by itself

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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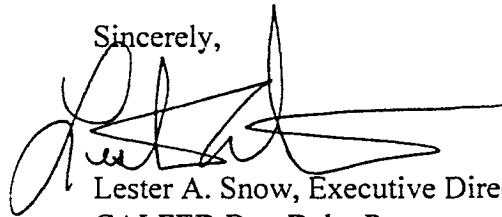
A core action should not:

- preclude or conflict with other actions
- increase conflicts between beneficial uses or stakeholders
- be a major Program activity or major facility structure
- create significant adverse, site-specific impacts or redistribute costs

Various DW Project concepts are incorporated as components of several of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program alternatives. Alternative H, Chain of Lakes Conveyance, has extensive in-Delta surface storage, about 600 thousand acre-feet. Alternative F, Extensive Habitat Restoration with Storage has 400 thousand acre-feet of in-Delta storage. There are several alternatives that have 100 thousand acre-feet of in-Delta storage. As you can see, In-Delta storage and other DW concepts are an important component of various alternatives. These alternatives will look at the unique opportunities to coordinate an In-Delta water storage project with existing facilities and operations.

Again, we appreciate your interest in a successful completion of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and look forward to your continued involvement in this important effort. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lester A. Snow', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lester A. Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program